

REMARKS

I. Claim Amendments

Claim 13 has been amended. New claims 27-32 are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. Specifically, the new claims find support in original claims 17-22 which were canceled. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced by any of the claim amendments. Upon entry of this communication, claims 1-16 and 23-32 are pending.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-16 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Karlsson et al. (WO 03/087,180 A3). The rejection is improper.

The cited document Karlsson et al. (WO 03/087,180 A3) is the published PCT application, PCT/GB03/01531 (the "PCT application"). As noted on the face of the published PCT application, the international filing date is April 9, 2003 and the PCT publication date is October 23, 2003.

The referenced application is the U.S. national stage application of the PCT application. Therefore, the referenced application is entitled to the April 9, 2003 filing date, which is the international filing date of the PCT application. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to the §371 Acceptance Letter, mailed July 29, 2005, in the referenced application.

As noted in the Office Action, the Examiner relied, albeit incorrectly, on the §371 date, i.e., June 23, 2005, as the filing date of the referenced application. The §371 date is not the filing date in this instance. Rather, it is the date on which the last of the 35 U.S.C. §371(c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) requirements was received in the Office.

Therefore, the cited document, Karlsson et al. (WO 03/087,180 A3), having a publication date (October 23, 2003) after the effective U.S. filing date (April 9, 2003) of the referenced application, does not qualify as §102(b) prior art which requires publication more than one year prior to the U.S. filing date.

Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested.

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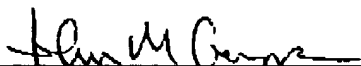
III. Conclusion

In view of the claim amendments and remarks herein, the application is in condition for allowance.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fee due in connection with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Dated: 13 February 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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